

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00832 231329Z

61

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0832

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CU, RQ, AG

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN UN: ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE'S

CUBAN SPEECH

REF: USUN 1409

1. ALGERIAN SUPPORT OF CUBA ON PUERTO RICAN ISSUE WAS, AS NOTED ALGIERS 0817 WHICH CROSSED REFTTEL, PART OF ALGERIAN/CUBAN JOINT DECLARATION IN WHICH ALGERIA SUBSCRIBED TO A NUMBER OF CUBAN POSITIONS RE US AND LATIN AMERICA. WHEN WE HAVE DISCUSSED PUERTO RICAN ISSUE WITH MIDDLE LEVEL ALGERIAN OFFICIALS IN PAST THEY HAVE EXHIBITED CONSIDERABLE AMBIVALENCE ON SUBJECT. AT TIMES THEY SEEMED GENUINELY CONFUSED BY FACT, WHICH THEY REGISTER, THAT PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE CONSISTENTLY VOTE STRONGLY AGAINST INDEPENDENCE CANDIDATES. AT SAME TIME THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE, WHERE FRENCH FOR YEARS GAVE IMPRESSION THAT VAST MAJORITY OF ALGERIANS FAVORED LINKS WITH FRENCH, LEADS THEM TO SUSPECT THAT APPARENT FACTS DO NOT EXPLAIN ALL AND THAT IF TRUE FEELING OF PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE WERE EXPRESSED IT WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF
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PAGE 02 ALGIER 00832 231329Z

INDEPENDENCE FOR ISLAND.

2. IN VIEW OF CONFUSED ALGERIAN THINKING EASY COURSE FOR THEM IS TO GO ALONG IN SUPPORT OF WHAT THEY BELIEVE MIGHT BE ASPECT OF WORLD LIBERATION MOVEMENT PARTICULARLY WHEN SOCIALIST PARTY OF PUERTO RICO IS CARRYING THAT STANDARD IN NON-ALIGNED GET-TOGETHERS. ALGERIAN POSITION IS ALSO PART OF TRADE OFF FOR CUBAN SUPPORT IN MIDDLE EAST.

3. BELIEVE THAT WHEN APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS ARISE IT IS USEFUL FOR US TO BRING FACTS OF PUERTO RICAN SITUATION TO ATTENTION ALGERIAN OFFICIALS. I WILL PROBABLY HAVE OPPORTUNITY DO THIS WITH HAMDANI AT PRESIDENCY AND BELIEVE USUN MIGHT ALSO USEFULLY SAY SOMETHING TO RAHAL. LAST FALL WHEN ISSUE AROSE IN CONNECTION WITH NON-ALIGNED CONVERENCE ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SAID THEY WERE THINKING OF SENDING PERSON OR PERSONS (PROBABLY FROM THEIR UN MISSION) TO PUERTO RICO TO OBTAIN FACTS. THIS MIGHT BE GOOD TIME TO SUGGEST THAT THEY DO JUST THAT AND OFFER TO ASSIST WITH, BUT NOT ORGANIZE, THEIR VISIT.
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